

Office of the Managing Director

Office of Sustainability

**EMERGENCY REGULATION DELAYING ENFORCEMENT OF AND ADJUSTING
APPLICABLE TIME FRAMES REFERENCED IN
CHAPTER 9-4900 OF THE PHILADELPHIA CODE:
PROHIBITION ON USE OF CERTAIN BAGS BY RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS
IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The following emergency regulation is hereby adopted in light of the novel coronavirus disease of 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic affecting the City of Philadelphia:

1.0 Purpose, Scope, and Effective Date of Regulation.

This Emergency Regulation is promulgated by the Managing Director’s Office pursuant to its authority under Section 8-407 of the Home Rule Charter to modify the applicable time frames concerning Chapter 9-4900 of The Philadelphia Code, Prohibition on Use of Certain Bags by Retail Establishments, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pursuant to the Mayor’s “Declaration of Extraordinary Circumstance: Suspending the Formal Regulatory Process for Regulations Concerning a Novel Coronavirus” dated March 11, 2020, this Emergency Regulation will be effective immediately upon filing with the department of records.

2.0 Enforcement Modifications of Applicable Time Frames in Chapter 9-4900

For enforcement purposes, the calculation of the time periods set forth in Sections 9-4902 and 9-4903 of the Code shall be calculated from a revised “Effective Date” of July 1, 2021.

3.0 Adjusted Provisions With Modified Time Frames

3.1 Definitions.

The terms used herein shall have the definitions provided in Section 9-4901 of the Code, with the exception of the term “Effective Date,” which shall be July 1, 2021, as provided in Section 2.0 of this Regulation.

3.2 Prohibition Against Single-use Plastic Bags. (Phila Code. § 9-4902(1).)

(1) Beginning October 1, 2021, Retail Establishments are prohibited from providing a Single-use Plastic Bag or a non-Recyclable Paper Bag to a customer at the retail establishment or through a delivery.

3.3 Signage Requirement. (Phila Code. § 9-4903(1)).

(1) Beginning July 31, 2021, and continuing through January 31, 2022, Retail Establishments are required to post at all points of sale conspicuous signage: informing customers that Single-use Plastic Bags and non-Recyclable Paper Bags will no longer be provided by the establishment as of the date the prohibition begins; explaining what types of bags and purchases are impacted; and providing any other information the Department may require by further regulation.